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Lunar New Year Celebration to Highlight Rockville's Asian Cultures

Feb. 24 Event Will Feature Music, Dancing and Martial Arts Demonstrations

Celebrate the Year of the Dog with performances, interactive activities and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration will be held from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. Multicultural performances will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force.

The celebration will feature 10 performance groups representing China, Cambodia, Korea, Vietnam and Nepal. Performances will include

vocal groups, martial arts, a Korean drum dance, modern Chinese dance and the traditional lion dance.

In its 10th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will

mark the year 4716, the Year of the Dog on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the

city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear. ❖

IF YOU GO – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT: Lunar New Year Celebration
WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24
WHERE: 250 Richard Montgomery Drive
Open to all in the Rockville community.

Villages Movement in Rockville Evolves

Intergenerational Support Leads to Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor Approach

The villages movement in Rockville is evolving, with volunteers of all generations stepping in to offer a helping hand.

Villages — local, volunteer-led, grassroots organizations — foster social connections through activities and events, and coordinate volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model.

Twinbrook is one of four emerging villages in Rockville, which include King Farm, East Rockville (the Pump House Village) and the West End. (Contact information for those villages can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/villages.)

"This has really become a movement defined by neighbors helping neighbors," Twinbrook Village representative Anne Goodman told the Mayor and Council at their Jan. 22 meet-



Anne Herbster (left), a member of the Rockville Senior Citizens Commission, chats with Trish Evans, the city's village facilitator, at a recent villages event held at Rockville Senior Center.

ing. "... We are fortunate. We are delighted to have volunteers who are active and represent a broad age-range. It is lovely to see young people participate in this, and participate actively, as well as people who are not so young."

Similar intergenerational efforts are emerging nationwide *continued on pg. 7...*



Rockville Wins Backing for Bus Stops and Sidewalks

Rockville will construct missing sidewalk segments along Potomac Valley Road and improve 78 Metro and Ride On bus stops throughout the city using federal funding approved in January by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board.

The improvements include installing bus shelters, adding and updating Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant shelter benches, leaning rails and landing pads, and relocating garbage cans and other equipment to clear pathways.

Rockville will put \$99,000 in matching funds toward the \$495,000 project.

Rockville's is one of 17 projects in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to receive a total of \$6 million in federal funding under the Federal Transit Administration's

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, which seeks to remove barriers to transportation service and expand transportation mobility options. A panel of local and national transportation and human service agency representatives selected the projects.

Also selected was a \$1.1 million Montgomery County project to provide supplemental assistance for the county's Call-n-Ride taxi voucher program. The funding will cut the monthly amount that participants with the lowest incomes would pay in half, to \$5.25, for a \$120 monthly subsidy on a swipe card that can be used with all five taxi providers serving the county.

Find a full list of projects receiving funding at bit.ly/mobilityprojects2018. ❖

City Hall and Some City Facilities to Close for Presidents Day

City Hall will be closed and recycling and refuse will not be collected on Monday, Feb. 19 in observance of Presidents Day. Several city facilities will operate on their usual schedule.

Recycling and refuse collection will not be collected on Presidents Day. Collections will occur one day later throughout the week. For more information, call 240-314-8568 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

On Monday, Feb. 19:

- Glenview Mansion and the Rockville Senior Center will be closed. Croydon Creek Nature Center is always closed Mondays.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be closed. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.
- Lincoln Park, Twinbrook and Thomas Farm community centers and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open regular hours. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for swim and fitness center lap and program schedules.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
Watch www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

In This Issue...

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MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Rockville, Maryland
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Go Behind the Badge with the Citizens Police Academy

Course Includes Firearms Training Simulations

Community members once again this spring have the opportunity to learn what it takes to be a police officer through the Rockville Citizens Police Academy.

Participants 18 and older will learn about all aspects of the police department, receive hands-on training and earn a graduation certificate upon course completion. The Rockville City Police Department is accepting applications for the free, eight- to 10-week course, which will be held in March, April and May at a time and place to be determined. Topics will include:

- Crime scene processing.
- Firearms training simulations.
- K-9 unit demonstrations.
- Traffic law.
- Detectives and investigations.
- Bomb unit.

For more information and to register, email Cpl. Ken Matney at kmatney@rockvillemd.gov.

For more information about the Rockville City Police Department and its community policing mission, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/police.

Mayor and Council Approve Brewery and Distillery Operations in Rockville

A zoning ordinance amendment to allow breweries and distilleries in Rockville was discussed at a Monday, Jan. 22 meeting of the Mayor and Council. The ordinance will be presented to the Mayor and Council for adoption at their Feb. 5 meeting.

The breweries and distilleries zoning ordinance amendment allows full production of alcoholic beverages in light and heavy industrial zones and the mixed-use employment zone. Limited production, such as microbreweries and microdistilleries, could take place in mixed-use business, mixed-use transit district, mixed-use corridor district and mixed-use employment district zones.

Find maps of where limited and full production would be allowed at bit.ly/zoning_amendment.

Search Begins for New Planning Director

Recruitment for a new director of the Community Planning and Development Services department has begun.

The Ohio-based Novak Consulting Group has been hired as the recruitment firm to conduct the search. Materials for advertising are currently being prepared, and advertising for the position is anticipated to begin in February.

Once interviews are conducted, the finalist is expected to be selected in spring. The job will be posted to thenovakconsultinggroup.com/jobs when details of the application requirements are finalized.

Thank a mentor. Pay it forward. Mentor a child. Change a life.



Learn more about how you can help a young person. Contact Kate Bouwkamp at 240-314-8317 or kbouwkamp@rockvillemd.gov.

www.rockvillemd.gov/mentoring



Seeking Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards is Feb. 22

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
 - Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
 - Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
 - Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.
- Eligible individuals

must live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the city's Environment Commission, which review the materials and recommends awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8870. ✚

Police Chief Search Moves Ahead

The city's search for its next police chief is moving ahead, with a recruiting firm hired to support the city manager's advertising and selection process.

Thank you to community members who took the time to complete and return surveys about the future chief, either online or using the postcard in November's "Rockville Reports."

The responses were shared with Springsted|Waters Executive Recruitment, the recruiting firm contracted by the city to assist in the search for a new chief. The position is being advertised at springsted-waters.recruitmenthome.com/postings/1773 and in national publications.



Springsted|Waters is also identifying and contacting potential candidates, including prospective minority and female candidates.

The leader of the firm's recruitment team has met with City Manager Rob DiSpirito to discuss what the city is looking for in its next chief and to develop a recruitment strategy. The firm maintains

Save with Energy-Saving Products and Energy Rebates Tax-Free Presidents Day Weekend Returns

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a water heater, or even changing a light bulb, can do so tax free on Presidents Day weekend.

On Feb. 17-19, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland's 6 percent sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax exempt at all times).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- Compact fluorescent and light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs.

Learn more about Energy Star products at www.energystar.gov.

Learn more about the

tax-free weekend by visiting www.marylandtaxes.com and searching "Shop Maryland Energy."

In addition, Pepco offers customers rebates on Energy Star appliances. Learn more at homeenergysavings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program.

Washington Gas also offers residential and commercial rebates, including, for residential customers, rebates on furnaces, tankless and standard water heaters, and programmable and Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats. Learn more at washingtongasliving.com/rebates.

Energy assistance may be available for customers having trouble paying their utility bills. Visit bit.ly/utilityassistance.

Find more energy-saving tips at www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness. ✚



communication with candidates about the progress of the search and the candidate's status and will use job criteria and candidate profiles to develop a list of semifinalists for DiSpirito to consider. It also conducts reference and background checks and academic verifications for job finalists, and provides assistance with developing the

final interview process, including suggesting interview questions and a candidate assessment process for the interview panel to consider.

The city will make a job offer to its preferred candidate this spring.

Learn more about the Rockville City Police Department at www.rockvillemd.gov/police. ✚



JUST A REMINDER... Residents are responsible for removing debris from sidewalks in front of their homes, including leaves and branches. For large limbs from city-owned trees only that can't be easily removed, please contact Rockville's Parks and Facilities Division at 240-314-8700 for assistance. (Limbs from privately-owned trees are the responsibility of the tree's owner.) Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/parksandfacilities for more information.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
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Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
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Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
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Meetings: Mondays, Feb. 5 and 26 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. A work session will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12. Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr on Feb. 12.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Find the drop-in schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.

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Mayor and Council to Discuss How Rockville Acquires Parkland

Work Session on Initiative to be Held Feb. 12

The Mayor and Council will discuss new tools to acquire city parkland at their Feb. 12 work session.

The parkland acquisition initiative aims to provide parks and recreational facilities, or generate revenue to create them, as new development takes place.

"While many residents of the city are well served by parks within walking distance of their neighborhoods, others are not," City Manager Rob DiSpirito said. "Also, with a growing population, there is

continued pressure to create new park greenspace, especially in redeveloping and urbanizing areas along Rockville Pike and in Town Center." Currently, the city has about 16 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents.

Two possible tools to do that are under consideration: impact fees charged to new development or requiring dedicated parkland or a fee-in-lieu from new development. Many jurisdictions around the country, and locally, use one of these tools to create parks and recreational facilities. ❖

Mayor and Council to Consider Voting By Mail

Allowing Rockville residents to vote by mail during Mayor and Council elections will be the topic of a public hearing during the Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5 at City Hall.

The Mayor and Council discussed the proposal during their Jan. 22 meeting, following a Nov. 6 presentation by the city's Board of Supervisors of Elections.

When voting by mail, registered voters receive a ballot by mail, mark the ballot, place it into a mailing envelope, sign an affidavit on the exterior of the envelope, which has a trackable bar code, and return the package by mail, at a drop box or in person. The board recommended establishing an Election Day center where voters could vote in person, drop off ballots and interact with election officials.

"Please come tell us your thoughts at the public hear-

ing on Feb. 5," Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton said. "We really do want to hear from everybody."

Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should call 240-314-8280 before 4 p.m. Feb. 5 to have their names placed on the speakers' list.

Encouraging more people to vote in city elections is a priority for the Mayor and Council this term. A discussion of board recommendations for the 2019 city election is scheduled for the Monday, Feb. 26 Mayor and Council meeting.

Find a report on the board's Nov. 6 presentation, including information about other local governments that allow voting by mail, at RockvilleReports.com/mayor-and-council-to-consider-voting-by-mail and video of the Nov. 6 presentation and Jan. 22 discussion at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

Zoning Changes Implement the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan

A zoning text amendment was approved at the Monday, Jan. 22 Mayor and Council meeting to implement land-use policies of the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan, such as allowing for "Champion Projects," and introducing a new mixed-use zone.

The new mixed-use zone will implement the "Center" land-use designation described in the plan, and will support areas with an active pedestrian environment and mix of uses, including retail that primarily serves the local neighborhood. Building heights and intensity of uses will be more limited in the new zone, compared to areas that surround the Twinbrook Metro Station or front Rockville Pike.

Champion Projects are established in the plan as an option for developing larger projects of 5 acres or more in a defined area known as the South Pike. A map amendment was also adopted that identifies the location of the new zone and rezones other properties within the planning area.

For more information about the Rockville Neighborhood Pike Plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/pikeplan. ❖

First Street Bridge Reopened

The First Street bridge reopened to foot and vehicular traffic on Dec. 22, after six months of work to replace the bridge and construct sidewalk.

The project, which forced the closure of vehicular access to East Rockville via First Street during construction, replaced culverts adjacent to Maryvale Park with a concrete bridge, constructed a sidewalk on the east side of the street from Lynn Court to the First Street spur road and relocated utilities.

Some work remains, including staining and patching the concrete bridge walls; installing no parking and handicap parking signs; road and parking lot striping; minor guard-rail work; tree planting; and minor sidewalk repairs.

The First Street Bridge was recommended for replacement in 2012, after it was inspected

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- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. (Learn more below.) Find other ways to give your time and talents to your community at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions. The webpage also includes schedules and cancellations, and contact information.

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22,** Development Review Committee 9 a.m.
- **Feb. 1,** Environment Commission 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 3,** Board of Appeals 9 a.m.*
- **Feb. 6,** Asian Pacific American Task Force 7:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 7,** Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 14,** Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 14, 28,** Planning Commission 7 p.m.*
- **Feb. 15,** Historic District Commission 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 21,** Rockville Sister City Corporation 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 22,** Recreation and Park Advisory Board 7 p.m. at Montrose Community Center
- **Feb. 28,** Rockville Housing Enterprises 6:30 p.m. at 621-A Southlawn Lane
- **Feb. 28,** Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1 regular/1 alt.)
- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (3)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Historic District Commission (1 regular/1 alt.)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (2)
- Sign Review Board (1 alt.)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted.

Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need financial help? Facing eviction? Utilities about to shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program. REAP assistance may be available for funeral expenses, medical expenses and payment for other basic needs. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

For more information on REAP, who to contact and where to apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/reap. For questions about program eligibility, contact Niambi Powell, community services referral coordinator, at 240-314-8319.



Students Have a Chance to be Mayor for a Day in May

Mayor Newton to Visit Rockville Fourth Graders

Rockville fourth graders will once again have a chance at serving as the city's Mayor for a Day this spring by taking part in the statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

The theme of this year's contest, organized by the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors Association, is "Live to Lead." Students are asked to write an essay, no longer than 275 words, that would describe how, if they were mayor, they would get the community involved in addressing an issue or cause and letting people know how their city is making positive changes.

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the state. Winners, their parents, and their teachers will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis. Essays must be received by Friday, March 30.

The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to take part.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be mayor of Rockville. Teachers or school administrators may email cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov to arrange for the mayor to visit their school, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate.

In addition to the winners chosen by MML and MMA, the mayor will select a student attending school in Rockville to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day in May.

Learn more by visiting www.mdmunicipal.org and selecting "Mayor's Essay Contest" under "Programs and Services," or call the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations' office at 240-314-8280.

City Manager to Present Proposed Budget to Mayor and Council

Budget Available Online by Feb. 16; Offer Ideas Online and at Hearings

City Manager Rob DiSpirito will present his proposed Fiscal Year 2019 city budget this month.

The proposed budget, for the fiscal year that begins July 1, will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget by Friday, Feb. 16. DiSpirito is scheduled to present the proposed budget during the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 26. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

Public hearings on Oct. 16 and Nov. 13 offered community members an early opportunity to provide budget ideas. At their Nov. 20 meeting, the Mayor and Council discussed priorities for the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY 2018, including results of the budget survey that the mayor and each councilmember completed. City staff detailed proposed water and sewer rates during a presentation to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 11, followed by a public hearing on the proposed rates on Jan. 22.

Find agenda materials and video of the hearings, presentations and priorities discussion at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

There is still time for community members to share their budget ideas. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget to learn more about the budget process and to use the city's online survey to identify priorities for the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY19. The first of two public hearings on the proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, March 19.

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$130.3 million. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY 2019 budget on May 14. ✚

WATCH IT AND OFFER IDEAS

- Channel 11 on county cable systems.
- Live stream: www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11
- Next day after each meeting: www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.
- Comment: www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Upcoming Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Calendar

Feb. 26	Presentation of FY 2019 Proposed Budget
March 5	Mayor and Council Budget Work Session
March 19	Budget Public Hearing
April 9	Budget Public Hearing
April 13	Budget Public Record Closes
April 23	Mayor and Council Budget Work Session
May 14	Adoption of the FY 2019 Budget

Meet a Rockville Employee:

Jordan Perry

Jordan Perry is a recreation program specialist with the City of Rockville. He joined the city in May. In this edition of "Rockville Reports," we're introducing him to the community.

When did you come on-board with Rockville?

Before I was hired by the city I started volunteering at the age of 11 in the after-school program at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. Then, a few years later, at 15, I was hired as a teens leader. I moved up in the ranks from leader to director in teens and community center programs. Now that I'm 22 years old and have spent about 11 years with the city, I'm ready to make a difference and continue to work hard and provide the best service for my community in my new position.

Tell us a little about your job and what you'll be doing.

I help plan and organize all sports and teen programs for the City of Rockville. Since I've started, I've run three summer programs that include Future Leaders Camp, Teens on the Go and the Leaders in Training



program, and one winter program, Friday Night Ski Club. During my time running those camps and programs, I was able to learn and see what our teen community would really like to see from the City of Rockville. As a recreation program specialist, I will continue to create new programs for our teen community that interest them.

Where can readers find out more about teen programs?

Take a look at our teens program website at www.rockvillemd.gov/teens or check out Rockville's recreations guides to see what's being offered (www.rockvillemd.gov/guides). If you have questions or ideas to share, give me a call at 240-314-8638 or email me: jperry@rockvillemd.gov. ✚



ROCKVILLE 2040 OPEN HOUSES ... At three open houses in January, held at City Hall, Rockville staff presented draft policies and concepts proposed for Rockville 2040, the plan that will shape the city's future. The open houses provided the public opportunities to give further feedback before the draft plan is developed and submitted to a formal review process that involves the Planning Commission and Mayor and Council.

Rockville 2040 has been a wide-ranging initiative dedicated to updating the city's Comprehensive Master Plan, which was last completed in 2002. The effort has featured an intensive set of listening sessions, citywide forums, meetings with communities and other stakeholders, as well as analyses and design. The Comprehensive Master Plan's goal is to preserve and improve the quality of life in Rockville by guiding development and conservation, and ensuring that the city can continue to provide high-quality community facilities.

Visit the Rockville 2040 website at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville2040 to read more about the process, view presentations and sign up for email updates. For more information, email Ann Wallas at awallas@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8200.

Connect with us on Social Media.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN WATCHING ON YOUTUBE... Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville) highlighted the opening of summer camp registration, open houses for the Rockville 2040 update to the city's Comprehensive Master Plan, a special presentation of the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration and a feature about how neighbors are helping neighbors through the villages movement.

University of Maryland to Study Emerald Ash Borer With Rockville's Help

Rockville's forestry staff will help the University of Maryland conduct a study on the effects of parasites on the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect pest that is devastating ash trees across the eastern United States.

Ash borer infestation is peaking in Rockville, requiring that hundreds of ash trees be removed from the city's parks, streets and private property. About 3 percent of the city's street-tree population is ash, with an unknown number of the trees in the city's forested park areas.

For the study, trees infested with borer larva will be removed and cut into sections that will be studied in UMD labs. When the adult emerald ash borer beetles emerge from the tree sections in spring, UMD researchers will release parasites into the controlled environment to determine if they're capable of controlling the invasive insect. If the research is successful, parasites could be released into the environment as a natural means to reduce the ash borer population.



In the meantime, residents should be aware that ash trees on their properties should be monitored for signs of emerald ash borer. Effective chemical treatments exist, but must be applied before the tree shows signs of infestation.

The emerald ash borer is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that is specific to ash trees and has killed tens of millions of trees nationwide. The pest feeds on the tree's vascular system throughout the summer and fall, disrupting the movement of water and nutrients within the tree and eventually killing it. The in-

sect, native to China, leaves a unique “D”-shaped exit hole in ash trees that distinguishes it from native borer species. Once a significant infestation is identified, treatment options have proven ineffective in saving trees. Once an ash dies, the tree degrades quickly and can become a danger to people and property.

For more information on the emerald ash borer and how to identify ash trees, visit www.emeraldashborer.info. For more information, contact City Forester Wayne Noll at 240-314-8700 or wnoll@rockvillemd.gov. ❀

Rockville City Academy to Return This Spring

Rockville City Academy
returns this spring with a
new opportunity to get to
know the City of Rockville.

Learn from staff leaders who oversee the city's daily operations. Topics will include:

- Rockville's form of government and the Public Information and Community Engagement Division.
- The Department of Public Works.
- Planning and the master plan process.
- Police and code enforcement, including neighborhood watch.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks, including a tour of city recreation facilities.
- Community leadership training.

The highly interactive program seeks to empower new and existing community leaders to use their talents to participate in and serve their communities and the City of Rockville.

The program will be held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. Dates and times can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/academy.

Spaces are limited.
Participants must be 16 or
older and live or work in
Rockville.

For more information,
contact Hjarman Cordero at
hcordero@rockvillemd.gov
or 240-314-8344. ❖

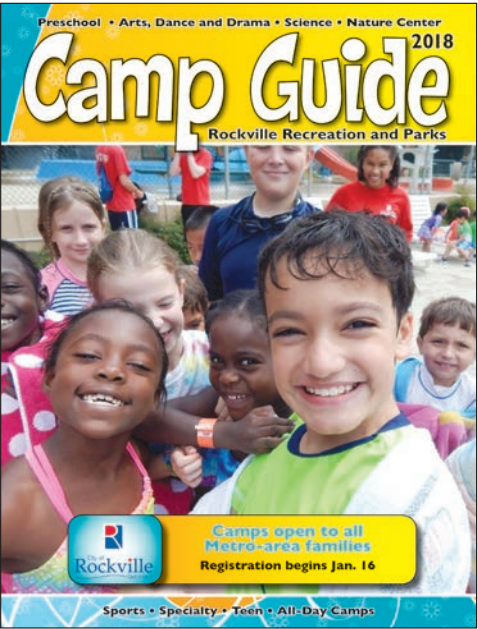
Summer Camp Registration is Now Open

Registration is open for more than 60 Rockville summer camps for kids age 3-16, including the traditional all-day, all-summer-break-long Summer Blast program, and specialty camps for robotics, arts, sports, science, dancing, nature, theater, parkour and more.

Teens age 13-15 can take part in the city's Future Leaders Camp, which is open to teens looking to have fun while learning leadership skills. FLC provides fun, interactive workshops, games and activities designed to prepare teens to volunteer and/or work in a camp setting (or their first job), and an opportunity to earn up to 30 student service learning hours.

Youth entering grades 6-10 can take part in a thrilling line-up of trips and adventures each week with Teens on the Go, including swimming, bowling and trips to the zoo and basketball and baseball games.

More information on both programs can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration and by searching for “Future Leaders Camp” or “Teens on the Go” in the “Filter” field, or on page 15 and 16 of the camps guide.



The 2018 Summer Camp Guide is available at City Hall, community centers and other facilities, as well as online as a PDF at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation. Sign up for camps at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. ❖

Stonestreet Corridor Study Meeting Set for Feb. 22

The next community meeting for the Stonestreet Corridor Study will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22 at Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Based on planning analysis and input from the previous four community meetings, planning staff will present initial draft recommendations for the study. Discussion and comments on those draft recommendations are welcome.

Meetings have so far addressed sites in the study area owned by Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County government, potential street improvements, and redevelopment concepts for opportunity areas along the corridor.

The Mayor and Council voted unanimously in February to move ahead with a comprehensive study of over 150 acres along the corridor. The study area covers, roughly, the east and west sides of North and South Stonestreet avenues, from the northern edge on Westmore Road south to where South Stonestreet Avenue ends at Veirs Mill Road. The study will also build on several previous plans that have addressed the Stonestreet corridor.

For meeting materials, meeting topics, as well as to sign up for email updates or submit comments, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/stonestreetsstudy. For more information, contact project lead Andrea Gilles at agilles@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8273.

County to Provide Free Tax Preparation Appointments

Montgomery County is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned less than \$54,000 in 2017.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who can help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, and e-file their federal and state tax forms.

Appointments are available from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Wednesdays, until April 13, at the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320. The program is for Montgomery County residents and by appointment only, and no walk-ins are allowed.

Schedule an appointment by calling 240-777-1123. (TTY users, call 711) or at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback.

To find more information, including a list of additional locations throughout Montgomery County, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Eight-Week Program Challenges Senior Center Members to Exercise

The Rockville Senior Center is challenging its fitness members to take part in an eight-week fitness challenge that will begin Monday, March 19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity weekly for older adults. Prizes will be awarded for the three Senior Center members who exercise the greatest number of minutes during the challenge.

An organizational meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, March 12, for all participants to receive the fitness challenge packet and to review the program's guidelines. Registration is required for this free program. Registration closes March 19.

Register with course #4784 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. (Participants must be Senior Center fitness members.)

**Winter
is here!
And snow!**

*Is your **Alert Rockville**
account current?*

*Don't have an **Alert
Rockville** account?*

**Get one at
[www.rockvillemd.gov/
alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).**

**Receive public
safety, traffic and
severe weather
notifications
from the City
of Rockville.**

 **WHAT'S GOING ON? ...** Wondering what's happening around town? Sign up for "This Week in Rockville," the city's weekly e-newsletter roundup of Rockville events, delivered to your inbox every Thursday. Find it and sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/thisweek.

Spring Sports — Now Registering

Youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball and soccer, and adult softball, volleyball and soccer are just a few of the sports all ages can take part in this spring with the City of Rockville.

Registration for spring sports leagues for youth and adults is currently open. Kids can take part in:

- T-ball (ages 4-6).
- Co-rec (boys and girls) coach-pitch baseball (ages 7-9).
- Co-rec soccer (pre-K through grade 3).
- Co-rec track and field (ages 6-14).

Each league has one practice per week, and a game or meet once a week. T-ball and coach pitch baseball play games on Saturdays. Soccer games are on Sundays and track and field meets are on Wednesdays.

Register for soccer, T-ball and coach-pitch baseball by Monday, Feb. 26 to save \$10. The registration deadline is Monday, March 5. Register for track and field by Thursday, March 1 and save \$10; the registration deadline is Thursday, March 8.

Practices for youth track and field begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball, and coach-pitch baseball begin early April, with games beginning mid-April. Adults can take part in men's softball or basketball, co-rec reverse softball (men bat in a reverse stance), co-rec indoor volleyball, co-rec sand volleyball or co-rec soccer sevens.

Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.

Speaker Series to Show Documentary on Five African-American Churches

The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series will hold a free screening of "Community Cornerstones: African American Communities in Montgomery County, Maryland," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8.

Between the Civil War and the civil rights movement, 40 African-American churches were built in Montgomery County. In these cornerstones of their communities, generations of black families created their own spiritual, social and educational opportunities.

Produced by Heritage Montgomery, the 60-minute documentary features five of these historic church communities. The event is free to attend. Glenview Mansion is located at 603 Edmonston Drive.

For more on Heritage Montgomery, visit www.heritagemontgomery.org. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview or www.peerlessrockville.org.

Drop Off and Registration for Student Art Show is Feb. 4

Rockville artist students — it's nearly time to drop off your creations for the Rockville Annual Student Art Show at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Delivery and registration for artwork is 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4.

This popular yearly show, held in partnership with the Rockville Art League, features artwork from Rockville students in grades K-12. Students who live or attend school in Rockville may deliver one 2-D or 3-D art piece for display in the gallery. All artwork is displayed, and works from students in grades 4-12 will be judged for ribbons in several categories.

The show's opening reception, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, will feature live entertainment by Bones Jones Music. The exhibition will run until Monday, March 12.

For a registration form and additional details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/studentartshow. For more information, contact Julie Farrell at jfarrell@rockville.md.gov or 240-314-8682.



Valentines Parties for All the Family

Sing along with us! "Love is in the air, do, do, do ...!" OK, you may be unfamiliar with John Paul Young's 1977 disco hit, but February is for valentines, and the whole family can find a love-is-in-the-air event (and maybe eat chocolate) this month at Rockville's three community centers.

To register where the event has a course number, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Annual Heart-to-Heart Family Valentine's Dance

- 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Enjoy a red-hot night! Families and friends spend time together making valentine crafts and dancing as a DJ spins favorites. Refreshments sold by Twinbrook Elementary School PTA. \$4 per person at the door.

Valentine's Day Chocolate Extravaganza

- 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9.
- Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Fallsgrove Drive.

The everything-chocolate family event. Make a valentine, enjoy the chocolate bar, play chocolate bingo, make a card. See Disney's magic movie of Belle and the Beast on the big screen from 7:30-9 p.m. Ages 2 and older. Register with course #3613 or pay at the door: \$4R/\$5NR.

Little Hearts Valentines

- 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.
- Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

A fun-filled valentine's event. Make cards, read a book, decorate cookies and more. A small snack will be provided. Adult assistance required. Ages 2-6. Register with course #3681. \$10R/\$13NR.

Tiny Tot Valentine's Day Party

- 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13.
- Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Fallsgrove Drive.

Enjoy a morning of Valentine's Day fun. Make a valentine, play games and visit with friends. Wear red to celebrate the day! Register with course #2761, \$3R/\$4NR. ❖

Warm Yourself at the F. Scott with Song, Dance and Farce

If the winter chill's getting to you, take in a performance in the warmth of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Three more performances of "The Underpants," presented by Rockville Little Theatre are scheduled for 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2 and 3, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4. A couple's conservative life is changed by a flash of underwear — but not in the way they expect. (By Carl Sternheim, adapted by Steve Martin. Directed by Karen Fleming.) Tickets cost \$22 for adults; seniors (62 and older) and students are \$20.



The Tamburitzans, of Pittsburgh, celebrate their 81st season with "Passages — The Journey of our Ancestors," about world culture brought to America through immigration. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Premium adult tickets are \$38; premium tickets for seniors/students/children, \$33. Standard adult tickets cost \$35; standard seniors/students/child, \$30.

"Annual Swinging Sunday," presented by the Rockville Concert



Band at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.

No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. Conducted by Associate Music Director Douglas Pierce, with guest ensemble, the Rockville Swing Band, conducted by Josh Frayer. Learn more about the concert band at www.rockvilleconcertband.org.

"The Merry Widow," presented by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company, tells the story of Hanna Glawari, a famous, wealthy widow from a fictional eastern European country whose ambassador attempts to find her a new husband and keep her fortune in the country, saving it from bankruptcy.

8 p.m. Feb. 23 and 24, and March 2 and 3; 2 p.m. Feb. 25 and March 4. On Friday, Feb. 23, the opening night special ticket price is \$14. Pre-show backstage tour and post-show Q-and-A on Feb. 25. Tickets for adults are \$28; \$24 for seniors (65 and older); and \$20 for students.

The theater is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. Buy tickets at www.rockville.md.gov/theatre, by phone at 240-314-8690 or in person at the box office. ❖

Free Foreign Films Over a Glass of Wine



Glenview Mansion's Wine and Foreign Film series continues in February and March for cinephiles age 21 and older. The films are shown café-style in the mansion's conservatory. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and each movie begins promptly at 7:15 p.m. The event is free,

with wine on sale at \$3 per glass. No tickets or reservations are required.

Feb. 13: "Young Goethe in Love." (German with English subtitles.) Germany 1772. Young, tumultuous Johann Goethe fails his law exams and is sent to a sleepy provincial court to mend his

ways. Lotte enters his life and nothing is the same. The young lovers are unaware that her father has already promised Lotte's hand to another man.

"Romance, humor and drama follow the characters and their dilemmas," Variety said of the movie.

March 13: "Fifi Howls from Happiness." (Farsi with English subtitles.) A documentary exploring the work and life of provocative artist, Bahman Mohassess,

the so-called "Persian Picasso," whose acclaimed paintings and sculptures dominated pre-revolutionary Iran.

"Addictively fascinating and exceptionally clever," according to "Village Voice."

Glenview Mansion is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. Free, well-lit parking is available. For more information, call 240-314-8682 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts. ❖



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? American Heart Month, Black History Month, National Bird-Feeding Month and National Children's Dental Health Month are just some of the celebrations marked in February, which, remember, hath 28 days, according to the old reminder. Not only do we observe the Lunar New Year on Friday, Feb. 16 (see page 1 for Rockville's Feb. 24 celebration) but also Valentine's Day on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (see our events listing on page 6).

February CALENDAR

CC Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



1 LITTLE ACORNS: NESTS AND BURROWS. For ages 18-36 months. Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2813. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

1,15 WOMEN LIVING ALONE: HOW TO LIVE ALONE AND NOT BE LONELY. A longstanding open enrollment support group in which members support each other through listening and offering tips, suggestions and advice for a variety of issues. 1-2:30 p.m. Meets first and third Thursdays. Register with course #2854. FREE **SR**

2,3,4 "THE UNDERPANTS," PRESENTED BY ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE. By Carl Sternheim. Adapted by Steve Martin. Directed by Karen Fleming. 8-10 p.m. Feb. 2 and 3. 2-4 p.m. Feb. 4. See article on page 6. **FSF**

3 LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH. Friends of the Library Rockville Chapter will hold a book sale in the Rockville Memorial Library atrium, featuring Valentine's Day gifts, adult fiction and children's books. Most books are \$1 or less. Proceeds go to FOL to support Rockville Memorial Library. 1-5 p.m.

6,20 WINTER BLUES. This psychoeducational therapy group will address seasonal depression, why it occurs and what to do about it, including possible routine changes, activities to help combat depression and/or medication. Register for course #2855. FREE. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8,22 MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT GROUP. This psychoeducational therapy group will address what MCI is and how to cope with it, including assistance for short-term memory and modifications for driving. Meets second and fourth Thursdays. Register for course #2857. FREE. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8 "COMMUNITY CORNERSTONES: AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND." The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents a screening of a 60-minute documentary film produced by Heritage Montgomery, featuring five historic church communities. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. See article on page 6. **GM**

9 CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA. Make a valentine, enjoy the chocolate bar, play chocolate bingo and make a craft at the family event. "Beauty and the Beast" will be shown on the big screen from 7:30-9 p.m. \$4 R/\$5 NR at the door. Course #3613 to pre-register. 6-9:30 p.m. **TF**

9 HEART-TO-HEART FAMILY VALENTINE'S DANCE. See article on page 6. 7-9 p.m. **TC**

10 "PASSAGES – THE JOURNEY OF OUR ANCESTORS," PRESENTED BY THE TAMBURITZANS. Enjoy the spectacular performance of the world-renown Tamburitians of Pittsburgh celebrating their 81st season! 7:30-9:30 p.m. See article on page 6. **FSF**

11 LITTLE HEARTS VALENTINES. See article on page 6. 1-3 p.m. **LP**

11 STUDENT ART SHOW OPENING. Students in K-12 who live or attend school within the city may submit one 2-D or 3-D piece from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Feb. 4. See article on page 6. Opening reception is 1:30-3:30 p.m. Feb. 11. **GM**

11 "SWINGING SUNDAY," PRESENTED BY THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND. 3 p.m. See article on page 6. **FSF**

13 TINY TOT VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY. See article on page 6. 10-11:30 a.m. **TF**

13,27 CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. This psychoeducational therapy group for people with, or impacted by a loved one with, cancer will address coping with the diagnosis and treatment, interacting with the health care industry, supporting and being supported by loved ones, and sharing with and supporting one another in the group. Register for course #2856. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

15 LITTLE ACORNS: WEATHER WONDERS. For ages 18-36 months. Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2814. \$7 R/\$9 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

17,18 WINTER LIFEGUARD TRAINING REVIEW CLASS. Students must present their American Red Cross certification card at the first class and must bring a CPR mask. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20600. Register for course #3580. \$125. 3-10:30 p.m. Feb. 17. 5-9:30 p.m. Feb. 18. **SFC**

20 WINE AND CHEESE OPEN HOUSE. Rockville Senior Center hosts an evening to meet the staff and make new friends. Bus transportation available; call 240-314-8810. Register with course #3700. \$3 for center members and residents, \$5 for nonresidents. **SR**

21 WILD ABOUT ART. Ages 2-5 years. Children become naturally creative through a variety of process art-based projects. Each session includes two to three art experiences. Dress for a mess! Adult participation required. Register for course #2810. \$6 R/\$7 NR. 10-10:45 a.m. **CC**

22 STONESTREET CORRIDOR STUDY. Initial draft recommendations for the study. 7 p.m. See article on page 5. **GM**

23 WINTER LIFEGUARD TRAINING CLASS BEGINS. This American Red Cross Lifeguard Training course will certify students in lifeguard training, CPR/AED for the professional rescuer and first aid. Space is limited. Students must attend all class sessions. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20600. Register for course #3587. \$195. 6-10 p.m. **SFC**

23,24,25 "MERRY WIDOW," PRESENTED BY THE VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY. By Franz Lehar. 8-10 p.m. Feb. 23 and 24. 2-4 p.m. Feb. 25. See article on page 6. **FSF**

24 NATURE TOTS: WINTER BIRDS. Ages 2-5 years. Discover the wonders of nature with your child. Each session, a naturalist delves into a different nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Time is spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2806. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

24 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION. The City of Rockville, in partnership with the city's Asian Pacific American Task Force. FREE. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. See article on page 1.

25 OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLUB: BIRD BEHAVIOR. For ages 6-8 years. Young scientists investigate a variety of science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. What goes bump in the night? Explore animals who are active while we are asleep. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2818. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**



Find the current recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide. Sign up and search for courses, programs, classes and more at www.rockvillemd.gov/register. Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and to register.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Villages Movement

continued from pg. 1...

and in Montgomery County jurisdictions, such as Bannockburn Neighbors Assisting Neighbors, a decade old village in Bethesda. Services include loans of strollers and infant and toddler gear, holding intergenerational social events, and providing for more traditional needs such as transportation, kitchen help, visits and running errands.

"By organizing local resources and in-

spiring residents to support one another, the Village model promotes intergenerational relationships and makes it easier for older residents to age in place responsibly while maintaining their autonomy and independence," according to Innovations in Aging Collaborative, a Colorado nonprofit dedicated to addressing issues in aging.

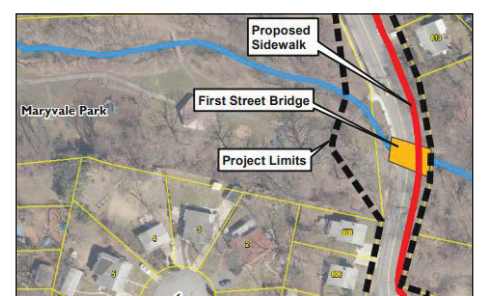
For more information and to learn how to start a village discussion in your neighborhood, contact Trish Evans, village facilitator, at 240-314-8807 or pevans@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

First Street Bridge

continued from pg. 3...

by the city's consultant as part of the ongoing bridge inspection program. The replacement will ensure that the bridge continues to provide adequate structural stability for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The sidewalk was recommended under the city's sidewalk prioritization policy.

Learn about Rockville's prioritization policy for constructing new sidewalks



at www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks. Learn more about city transportation projects at www.rockvillemd.gov/transportation. ❖

Parks — They're Good for Your Health, Too

The Rockville Recreation and Parks Department is taking part in Park Rx America and encouraging the community to visit one of Rockville's 65 parks as one way to create a healthy, happy lifestyle.

The mission of Park Rx America is to reduce the burden of chronic disease, increase health and happiness, and foster environmental stewardship, by virtue of prescribing nature during the routine delivery of health care.

Park Rx America works with public parks and health care providers to develop resources and make it easy to prescribe parks to their patients. To date, Doctors across America have made over 3,000 park prescriptions since the program started in 2013.

To learn more about Park Rx, visit www.parkrx.org. For more on Rockville's 65 parks and their facilities, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/parksandfacilities.

Beat the Water with Swim Center Triathlon Training

Swimming is often the weakest event faced by triathletes, which is why the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will offer two swimming programs geared specifically to the open-water component of a triathlon.

Center's certified coaches understand the challenges of open-water swimming and the need to swim efficiently. Beginners to world-class triathletes can take part. Register with the course number listed below at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

- Triathlon Swim Skills: 8:05-8:55 a.m. Sundays, from March 4-April 22 (no classes on Sunday, April 1); course #2998.
- Triathlete Swim Endurance: 7-8:30 p.m. Sundays, from March 4-April 22 (no classes on Sunday, April 1); course #3576.

Find out about Rockville Swim and Fitness Center pool schedules, seasonal hours, personal training opportunities and more at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

2017 Holiday Drive Donors Recognized

Seventy-nine donors to the City of Rockville's 2017 Holiday Drive will be thanked at the Mayor and Council's Feb. 5 meeting, each receiving a certificate of appreciation for their assistance.

Eleven organizations will be recognized as distinguished donors: Adventist Healthcare; Bar-T; Carl Peterson; Early Childhood Center; EMMES Corp.; Faith United Methodist Church; Family Healthcare; Sanberger, Inc.; Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker; Westat; and White Flint Children's House.

Partner organizations will also be thanked for helping make this year's drive possible: CAS & Associates; Chris Kelly; Maryvale Elementary School; Montrose Baptist Church; Richard Montgomery High School; Robert Frost Middle School; Rockville Church of Christ; Rockville High School; St. Mary's Catholic Church; and St. Mary's Catholic School.

The 2017 campaign meant 483 families received Thanksgiving meals; 105 seniors were hosted for Thanksgiving dinner at Heritage House; and 63 families received personalized gifts through the family sponsorship program. Also, 892 toys were given out to children in need, 202 gift cards were distributed to adults and seniors, 279 gift cards were given to teens, and each child and teen received a book through the drive.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Public Hearing Scheduled for Fireside Apartments Refinancing

The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing on the refinancing of Fireside Park Apartments at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26. Proceeds generated from the refinancing will help fund modernization of the property.

Rockville Housing Enterprises, the city's public housing agency, purchased the 236 mixed-income, affordable-housing rental units in December 2012. The financing agreement was structured to be refinanced seven years following the closing date.

Fireside Park Apartments, at 735 Monroe St., which consists of one- to three-bedroom garden-style units

built in the 1960s. RHE bought the property to keep the apartment units affordable to a range of household income levels. RHE was created by the Mayor and Council to own and administer public and assisted housing in Rockville.

Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should call 240-314-8280 before 4 p.m. Feb. 26 to have their names placed on the speakers' list.

For more information on the refinancing, contact Asmara Habte, chief of housing programs, at 240-314-8203 or ahabte@rockvillemd.gov. Additional agenda information will be available by Feb. 23 at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

REDI Seeks Businesses to Appreciate

Rockville Economic Development, Inc.'s Rockville Business Appreciation Week 2018 is April 9-13.

Throughout the week teams of ambassadors comprising city leaders, city staff, and REDI representatives visit Rockville businesses to thank them for locating in the city and to introduce business owners to resources available to help their companies grow. REDI

ambassadors visited over 50 companies during Business Appreciation Week 2017.

Businesses located within the city limits that are interested in having REDI visit during the week should contact Bridget Mburu, REDI business development manager, at mburu@RockvilleREDI.org or 301-355-2202 or visit rockvilleredi.org/news-events/business-appreciation-week/. ❖

Photos courtesy JFBerry.



HONORING THOSE WHO HONOR DR. KING...

Rockville High School student Jabril Mohamed (photo at left) received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award and Tamara Maze Gallman (photo at right), founder of Disability Partnerships, received the F. Michael Taff Award during the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Jan. 15.

Save the Date for the City's 2018 Special Events

Rockville hosts family-friendly special events throughout the year. Mark your calendar for the following free events in the months ahead:

Lunar New Year (Free)

Saturday, Feb. 24; 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, interactive activities and cultural displays. Learn more on page 1 and at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear.

Rockville Science Day (Free)

Sunday, April 22; noon-5 p.m.; Montgomery College – Rockville, 51 Mannakee St.

The 29th annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on. Learn more and register to exhibit at <http://rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day/>.

Rockville Farmers Market

Saturdays, May 12-Nov. 17; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Route 28 (East Jefferson Street) and Monroe Street, Rockville Town Center

Find seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, cut flowers, preserves, honey, herbs, baked goods and more from regional growers and producers. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers.

Public Works Equipment Show (Free)

Thursday, May 24; 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane

Kids – and kids at heart – can climb into the operator's seat of some of the big trucks used by the city's Department of Public Works. The show includes balloons, popcorn, coloring books and other giveaways.

Hometown Holidays Music Fest (Free)

Saturday-Monday, May 26-28; Rockville Town Center

The 30th edition of this popular music festival includes four stages of entertainment, the Taste of Rockville, amusements for kids and the Memorial Day ceremony and parade. Find details as they are announced at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Suds & Soles 5K

Saturday, June 23; 7:30 p.m.; Rockville Town Center

Run a 5K course through Town Center, attend a post-race party, sample great beverages. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles.

Independence Day Celebration (Free)

Wednesday, July 4; 7-10 p.m.; Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive

Celebrate Independence Day with music, food and a spectacular fireworks display. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/independenceday.

Movies in the Parks (Free)

Wednesdays, Aug. 1-22; Locations and movies to be announced in June.

Enjoy four different movies at four different neighborhood parks throughout the city. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/moviesintheparks.

Rocktoberfest (Free)

TBD; Rockville Town Center

Two stages of entertainment, German music, dancing and food, craft vendors, kids activities and beverages for sale by local breweries.

Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show (Free)

Saturday, Oct. 20; 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive

More than 500 vehicles are on display at this city tradition, which offers a car-related flea market, car sales area, music and more. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/carshow. ❖



Get Into It

Mayor
BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON
Councilmembers
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VIRGINIA D. ONLEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
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City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
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Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
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BACK IN THE DAY... The picture of a fresh-faced, dark-haired young man of 39 accompanied a story that took up the lower half of Feb. 9, 1989's edition of "Rockville Reports." That young man, Terrance N. Treschuk would go on to spend 27 years as Rockville's top cop. Treschuk retired in June 2016 as the chief of the Rockville City Police Department. Rockville is currently engaged in a search for a new chief. See the article on page 3.